

Applicants: Tillon et al.
Preliminary Amendment
Amdt. dated July 27, 2006

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~-1 for positioning ornamental elements and/or "active elements" in hair, comprising characterized in that it comprises a fine loop 2 comprising one end 3 that is free and crimped or otherwise secured to its other end 4, and in that it is designed to cooperate with an ornament and/or "active element" 7, itself comprising a support 8 designed to be capable of being fastened onto or around the loop 2 and at least one ornament and/or "active element" for hair 9 integral with said support.

2. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Device of Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said support 8 consists of a body comprising a means that allows pinching of said support onto the branches of the loop 2 in order to fit tightly around the latter, or of an internal channel open at both its ends, enabling said support to be threaded onto said branches of the loop 2, the means in question being customized as having to allow positioning of the support 8 bearing the ornament and/or "active element" 4 on the loop 2, and then sliding it along this loop.

3. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Device of Claim 1 or 2, further ~~comprising characterized in that it comprises~~ a loop 2 pointed at one end 3 and crimped at the other end 4 by a crimp 6, said crimp being selected from among the group consisting of:

- a mass surrounding the two free ends 4 of the loop, such as a mass of resin heat-shrunk around the ends, or a mass of glue deposited around said ends, by depositing, dipping;
- a plastic mass slit open over approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of its diameter, inside of which slot the two ends of the loop are inserted, prior to pinching or crimping the assembly together; and

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- a mass of resin or other plastic material comprising a coaxial channel into which the two ends of the loop 2 are introduced, prior to pinching or crimping the assembly together, or else prior to gluing the assembly together.

4. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-3, characterized in that said crimp consists of any material non-toxic to humans, such as various plastic materials, resins, metal, wood or fabric.

5. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-4, characterized in that the loop 2 may consist of two branches 10, 11 free at their ends 4 and joined together at the end 3, or else consist of a loop whose ends 4 are already joined together like the opposite end 3, and form a unit consisting of two branches 10, 11 joined to one (3) or both of their ends (3 and 4), as just stated, and forming a very elongated oval.

6. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-5, characterized in that the end 3 is pointed or angular, in order to facilitate arrangement of the support 8.

7. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-6, characterized in that the loop 2 may consist of a small-diameter metal wire that is non-toxic to humans, such as stainless spring steel, or a semi-rigid wire made of a plastic material, the diameter being such that it retains the very elongated oval shape of the "loop," but is sufficiently small so that the loop can be readily deformed and manipulated in order to easily enable the fastening and sliding operations.

8. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-7, characterized in that the support 8 for the ornament and/or "active element" 9 may consist of a material that is non-toxic to humans, and sufficiently flexible to enable the fastening and sliding operations, selected from among the group consisting of a silicone

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sheath, and a sheath made of a food-grade plastic material, and like the crimp 6, said support may be perforated with a coaxial channel 13, in which case it consists of a sheath, or it may be slit open over approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of its diameter in order to enable pinching.

9. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-8, characterized in that said support 8 is a silicone, neoprene or elastomer sheath.

10. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Device of Claim 9, wherein characterized in that said silicone, neoprene or elastomer sheath is sufficiently rough or "gripping" in the area of its coaxial channel 13 to be gently held in place on the loop, and then on the lock of hair, without slipping unexpectedly.

11. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 1, wherein Device of any of Claims 1-10, characterized in that said ornaments and/or active elements may be a pearl, a small mass made of a plastic material, colored, or transparent or clear, or sparkling resin, itself bearing sequins and the decorative elements and locks of hair, said ornament mass and/or "active element" 9 being capable of taking on shapes imitating various diamond cuts, a circle, a square, a half-sphere, or a faceted half-sphere.

12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ of positioning ornaments and/or "active elements" 9 in the hair, comprising ~~characterized in that it includes~~ the following steps:

- using
 - o a device 1 as claimed in any of Claims 1-11, comprising a loop 2 consisting of two semi-rigid branches 10, 11 comprising a threading end 3 and another crimped end 4, the loop defining a very elongated oval,
 - o as well as at least one ornament and/or "active element" 7, as described according to any of Claims 1-11 and comprising a slightly rough support 8 such as a silicone sheath capable of being threaded, pinched or otherwise arranged on said loop so as to be able to slip or slide thereon, and at least one ornament element and/or "active element" 9;

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- said support 8 is threaded onto said loop 2, a lock of hair is passed into said loop, the support 8 holding the ornament and/or active element 9 is transferred by sliding it along said loop 2 onto said lock of hair, and then said device 4 is removed.

13. (Currently Amended) An ornament ~~Ornaments and/or "active elements"~~ for hair 7 comprising:

- a slightly rough support 8 such as a sheath made of silicone, or of a plastic material, or a support of this type slit open over approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of its diameter, and capable of being threaded, pinched or otherwise arranged on said loop, so as to be able to slip or slide thereon;

- at least one ornament element 9 integral with said support, selected from among the group consisting of imitation diamonds, faceted circular or semi-spherical masses bearing decorative elements such as sequins or sparkles;

- and/or an "active element" selected from among the group consisting of scented jewels, perfume sprayers, perfume testers, testers for hair colorings, pieces supported by several sheaths (e.g., cloth fabric), jewels for dogs, diffusers for dogs, diffusers for medicated products for dogs, and jewels for horses' manes.